

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (ORIGINAL) A method of determining an identity of at least each card in card hands at a casino table card game comprising:
 - automatically reading the rank and suit of each card that leaves a dealing shoe;
 - dealing hands according to the rules of play of a casino table card game with at least one hand being dealt to a player;
 - providing a signal of the completion of hands or first cards having been dealt to all players present at the table;
 - dealing additional cards to hands according to rules of the casino table card game;
 - removing exhausted hands from the table and placing the exhausted hands in a discard rack;
 - reading each card placed in the discard rack from exhausted hands to determine rank and suit of each card placed in the discard rack; and
 - reconciling cards placed in the discard rack with cards that left the dealing shoe.
2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein in addition to at least one hand being dealt to a player, a hand is dealt to a dealer or to a common card area.
3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 wherein a first card or a complete hand is dealt to a dealer and the signal of the completion of hands or first cards having been dealt to all players comprises signaling that a first card or complete hand has been provided to a dealer.
4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 wherein a signal is provided when a) a first dealer card or dealer's complete hand is received or b) a common card is received in common card location.
5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4 wherein a signal is provided that a first dealer's card or dealer's complete hand has been provided to the dealer.
6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein a number of active player positions is determined by a count of a number of cards that leave the dealing shoe before

a first dealer card, dealer complete hand, first common card or complete set of common cards is signaled.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4 wherein a number of active player positions is determined by a count of a number of cards that leave the dealing shoe before the first dealer card or first common card is signaled.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5 wherein a number of active player positions is determined by a count of a number of cards that leave the dealing shoe before the first dealer card or first common card is signaled.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4 wherein complete hands of a specific number of cards are sequentially dealt to players and a number of active player positions is determined by a count of the number of cards dealt divided by the number of cards before the signal of the presence of at least one card in the dealers hand or the common card(s) is made.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5 wherein complete hands of a specific number of cards are sequentially dealt to players and a number of active player positions is determined by a count of the number of cards dealt divided by the number of cards before the signal of the presence of at least one card in the dealers hand or the common card(s) is made.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the casino table card game is blackjack and cards are dealt to each player position and a dealer position one at a time.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4 wherein the casino table card game is blackjack and cards are dealt to each player position and a dealer position one at a time

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5 wherein the casino table card game is blackjack and cards are dealt to each player position and a dealer position one at a time

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 9 wherein the casino table card game is blackjack and cards are dealt to each player position and a dealer position one at a time

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4 wherein a signal of the presence of a dealer's initial hand is used to determine a number for all active player positions.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein a signal of the presence of a dealer's initial hand is used to determine a number for all active player positions.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12 wherein a signal of the presence of a dealer's initial hand is used to determine a number for all active player positions.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein after determination of all active player positions, initial hands for each player position are determined as known hands.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein after determination of all active player positions, initial hands for each player position are determined as known hands.

20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein hands placed in the discard tray are reconciled with known hands based at least on knowledge of a set of first two cards received in a hand placed in the discard tray.

21. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein hands placed in the discard tray are reconciled with known hands based at least on knowledge of a set of first two cards received in a hand placed in the discard tray.

22. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 12 wherein hands placed in the discard tray are reconciled with known hands based at least on knowledge of a set of first two cards received in a hand placed in the discard tray.

23. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13 wherein hands placed in the discard tray are reconciled with known hands based at least on knowledge of a set of first two cards received in a hand placed in the discard tray.

24. (ORIGINAL) A system for determination of at least individual hands of cards in a casino table card game comprising:

a card delivery device that reads the rank and suit of each card in the card delivery device before each card is delivered to a hand position, and sends first signals of the suit and rank of each card to a processor,

a card discard tray that reads the rank and suit of each card in the card discard tray, and sends second signals of the suit and rank of each card in the card discard tray to a processor, and

a processor that receives signals from the delivery device and the discard tray and identifies individual hands that were played in the casino table card game based on comparison of the first and second signals.

25. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 24 communicatively associated with a blackjack card table.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 25 wherein a signaling element is communicatively associated with the system to automatically indicate at least one of when a dealer has received a first card or a dealer has received two cards.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 24 26 wherein a signaling element is communicatively associated with the system to indicate at least one of when a dealer has received a first card or a dealer has received two cards and wherein the signaling element comprises a manually activated element.

28. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 26 wherein the signaling element comprises a sensor sensing dealer card(s).

29. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 24 wherein hands of each player position are identified by an anchor reference comprising the identity of two cards first received at the player position.

30. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 25 wherein hands of each player position are identified by an anchor reference comprising the identity of two cards first received at the player position.

31. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 26 wherein hands of each player position are identified by an anchor reference comprising the identity of two cards first received at the player position.

32. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 24 wherein completion of dealing cards to players and a possibility of providing additional cards to a dealer is identified by a dealer's signal.

33. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 32 wherein the dealer's signal is provided by clearing a view from a sensor.

34. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 32 wherein the dealer's signal is provided by manual activation of a dealer's signaling element.

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT/ELECTION OF ULTIMATE
SPECIES**

Applicants hereby elect claims 1-26 and 27-34 for prosecution on the merits. Claims 27 is held in abeyance until allowance of a generic claim, at which time claim 27 would then also be allowed if dependent from that generic claim.

Applicants hereby elect the subject matter of Species 2, drawn to providing the signal of the completion/count of hands automatically. It is to be noted that claim 24 was never limited to the signaling of hand counts or dealer card presence, and only by limitation of claims 26 and 27 was that claim (and other claims dependent from Claim 24) relevant to that issue.